

gradual homogenization and rising prosperity of entire peoples. It included giving credit to the masses, financially and otherwise: "On ne prete qu'aux riches"—credit is only for the rich—was not just a French aphorism but the established capitalist practice in Europe until about 1948.

By the 1950s, the social structure of Western Europe was starting to resemble that of the United States. Now, this transformation is largely completed and the differences between the United States and other democratic societies are no longer mainly economic or social, but national and cultural.

The Truman administration was able to push the Marshall Plan through a predominantly Republican Congress in 1947-48, in which the main opponents of the European Recovery Program were right-wing Republicans, the very people who accused Truman and his government of being soft on communism. Most of these people had been isolationists before and during the first years of World War II. Their conversion to another kind of internationalism (more precisely: supranationalism) was easy. By 1956, the Republican party adopted a platform calling for "the establishment of American air and naval bases all around the world"—proposed by a party that was even then called "isolationist" by its opponents, wrongly so.

The Marshall Plan in 1947 was followed, less than two years later, by the creation of NATO, an alliance that, for all its merits, contributed to a political division of Europe lasting for 40 years. With the retreat of the Russians from Eastern Europe in 1989, the Cold War—and the partition of Europe—came to an end. Some people called for a new Marshall Plan for Eastern Europe and, perhaps, for Russia. But this did not come about, for many reasons. In 1947, the United States was the only economic superpower in the world; 40 years later, this was no longer the case. In 1947, the countries of Western Europe were threatened by a possible expansion of communism; the opposite was true of Eastern Europe 40 years later. In 1947, the global financial economy was in its embryonic stage; 40 years later, principal investments abroad no longer required the principal thrust of a government.

But with all of these differences in mind, there remains one similarity. History does not repeat itself, but some historical conditions do. The main beneficial result of the Marshall Plan was Western Europeans' confidence that the United States was committed to maintaining their freedom. The American commitment to Eastern Europe now is not clear. It is suggested here and there by American actions, as in Bosnia, but it is not a commitment. Yet it is in the interest of most European countries—yes, including even Russia—that a new division of Europe should not occur. The main instrument for its avoidance may no longer be an Eastern European Marshall Plan; but it is certainly not an extension of NATO.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL PUERTO RICAN PARADE, 40 YEARS OF HISTORY

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 1997*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy that I rise today to pay tribute to the National Puerto Rican Parade on its 40 years of history. The parade, to be held on June 8 in New York City, is the largest celebration of Puerto Rican culture in the United States.

Throughout its history, the parade has grown into a national event under the leadership of its president, Ramón S. Vélez. The event attracts thousands of Puerto Ricans from across the Nation and from Puerto Rico, as well as many other individuals, their families and children, from all ethnic backgrounds.

This year's parade will honor the life of a Puerto Rican hero, Roberto Clemente. Mr. Clemente's exceptional athletic talent was paired with his outstanding humanitarian and charitable contributions to this Nation. He died 25 years ago in an airplane crash, while he was on a mission to help the victims of an earthquake in Nicaragua.

Mr. Clemente's memory has also been honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award bestowed to an individual by the U.S. Congress. Clemente's legacy is an inspiration and an example to the children of Puerto Rico, as well as those of this Nation.

As a Puerto Rican, a New Yorker, and a Member of Congress, it is an honor to once again participate in this national event, in which thousands of individuals will march along Fifth Avenue, in Manhattan, in celebration of our Puerto Rican heritage and our achievements in this Nation. Among other accomplishments, Puerto Ricans have been instrumental in transforming New York City into a great bilingual city. Moreover, the parade has served as a national landmark in which people from all ethnic groups unite to commemorate our Nation's glorious immigrant history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Roberto Clemente and the National Puerto Rican Parade, in its celebration of our Puerto Rican legacy, and the many contributions made by the sons and daughters of Puerto Rico to the greatness of this Nation.

#### THE REDUCTION IN MEDICARE OVERPAYMENT COSTS ACT OF 1997

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 1997*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Reduction in Medicare Overpayment Costs Act of 1997, which imposes an administrative fee on providers who submit inaccurate Medicare claims.

The American taxpayer spends nearly \$200 billion on Medicare every year. However, billions are lost due to inaccurate claims or overpayment. This burdens the Nation with serious financial costs, threatening the quality of medical care and endangering the long-term sustainability of the Medicare Program.

The Reduction in Medicare Overpayment Costs Act of 1997, which was introduced in the Senate by Senator MCCAIN, will help eliminate overpayments by imposing an administrative fee to offset recovery costs. The purpose is to discourage doctors from submitting false or misleading claims and to prevent hospitals from excessively overestimating Medicare costs.

The act promotes these purposes in three ways. First, the act imposes an up to 1 percent administrative fee if the repayment is more than 30 days late. Second, the act will

impose an up to 1 percent administrative fee if the provider overestimates Medicare needs by greater than 30 percent. Third, the act requires the issuance of a report detailing which services typically result in overpayments.

This act is needed to crack down on incorrect or inflated claim practices in Medicare. I urge my fellow members to vote in favor of this bill to ensure claim accuracy by Medicare providers.

#### IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT MARLIN C. CARROLL

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 1997*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Sergeant Marlin C. Carroll of Warsaw, MO. Sergeant Carroll had a distinguished 30-year career in the Missouri State Highway Patrol before his retirement in 1988. I knew him as a friend, as a dedicated law enforcement officer, and as a man of honor and integrity.

Sgt. Carroll was born on a farm in Worth County, MO, in 1933, the son of Ralph Wayne and Aloha June Morin Carroll. He grew up in Worth County and graduated from Grant City High School in 1951. He married Gerry Heisman on May 18, 1952. He served his country with distinction in the U.S. Army and in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

In 1958, Sgt. Carroll joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and was stationed in my hometown of Lexington, MO. In 1965, he received the American Red Cross Life Saving Award for his prompt and professional actions in rescuing a child from a life-threatening accident. In 1967, he was promoted to Corporal and transferred to Carrollton, MO, and in 1971, he was promoted to Sergeant and moved to Warsaw where he served as zone sergeant for Benton and Henry Counties until his retirement.

Sgt. Carroll was an active member of his community, and he will be missed by all who had the privilege to know him. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Gerry; his daughter, Patty; his two sons, David and Eddie; his nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and his mother, brother, and two sisters.

#### TRIBUTE TO BOB BLONSKI

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 1997*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay heartfelt tribute to my long-time friend, Mr. Robert J. Blonski, of Milwaukee, who is leaving Lincoln Community Bank on July 1. After many years of dedicated service to Lincoln, Bob is moving on to new challenges as president of M&M Services, a subsidiary of Merchants and Manufacturers Bancorporation.

Bob and his wife, Kathleen, are the proud parents of two wonderful boys. Bob has diligently served as a member of my academy selection board, helping with the difficult and